

XXXI.—On two new Species of Birds found in Victoria. By FREDERICK M'COY, Professor of Natural Science in the Melbourne University, and Director of the National Museum of Victoria, &c.

THE publication of my friend Mr. Gould's 'Handbook to the Birds of Australia' has given such an impetus to the study of ornithology in Australia that descriptions of two new species amongst the surprisingly few which escaped his researches may be of interest. One of these is a *Pardalotus* which seems to replace the *P. punctatus* in the north-west part of the colony of Victoria and in the adjacent colony of South Australia. The other is a third, well-marked species of the genus *Sphenura*, more robust than the other two.

Pardalotus xanthopygus, M'Coy.

(Yellow-backed Diamond-bird.)

Male. Crown of head, wings, and tail black, most of those feathers having a round spot of white near the tip; a strip of white commences on the nostril and passes over each eye; ear-coverts and sides of the neck grey, the margins being lighter, so as to give a slight transverse mottling; feathers of the back dark grey at base, with a large, triangular greyish-white spot near the tip, followed by a black edge; lower part of the back, under tail-coverts, throat, and front of chest rich yellow; upper tail-coverts crimson; abdomen pale-brownish cream-colour, flanks greyish; bill black; feet brown.

Female. Differs in having the head greyish, like the back, and the throat whitish.

Total length, from tip of bill to end of longest tail-feathers, 3 inches 8 lines; bill, from forehead, rather more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines; wing, from shoulder, 2 inches $3\frac{1}{2}$ lines; tarsus 8 lines.

This beautiful species belongs to the same section of the genus *Pardalotus* as the *P. rubricatus*, *P. punctatus*, and *P. quadragintus*, distinguished from the others by wanting the red sealing-wax-like appendages to the spurious wing-feathers. It most nearly resembles the *C. punctatus* (Lath., sp.), from which it differs in its more slender and slightly longer bill, the white instead of brownish spots on the fore part of the back, the paler abdomen, greyish instead of brownish flanks—and conspicuously by the hinder part of the back being of the same bright yellow as the throat and under tail-coverts.

Specimens are in the National Museum at Melbourne, from Swan Hill, near the junction of the Murray and Darling; and Mr. Waterhouse has presented some from near Adelaide in South Australia.

Sphenura Broadbenti, M'Coy.

(Rufous-headed Bristle-bird.)

All the back, shoulders, and flanks dull brown; wings and tail of a slightly richer and more rufous brown, the tail-feathers in some lights seeming to be transversely marked with faint, glossy, transverse, narrow bands of slightly lighter shade; crown of head, nape, and ear-coverts rich chestnut or rufous brown; triangular spot in front of and slightly over the eye, and the throat, greyish white; feathers of breast lunulated, greyish white at margin, dull brownish like the flanks at base; the greyish white extends in a narrow track along the middle of the abdomen; legs, feet, upper part and tip of bill dark brown; lateral margins of upper mandible and basal portion of lower one yellowish.

Length 7 inches 9 lines; wings 3 inches $4\frac{1}{2}$ lines; tail 4 inches 10 lines; bill, from gape, $11\frac{1}{2}$ lines, from forehead 7 lines; tarsus 1 inch 2 lines.

The greater length of the wing, tarsus, and bill easily distinguish this species from the two previously known, as well as the rufous head and ears and the greyish-white instead of buff colour over the front of the eye. I am uncertain what value should be attached to the much darker and stronger lunulation of the breast-feathers, as I have only seen one specimen, and am not certain whether it has attained maturity. The bill is stronger, being deeper as well as longer, and slightly more arched in the culmen than in the *S. brachypterus*, to which it is most nearly related. The sixth primary is also slightly longer than the fifth and seventh, which are equal; the claws are rather stouter than in that species, and the three or four large rictal bristles are rather weaker.

The specimen described was presented to the museum at Melbourne by Mr. Broadbent, who shot it in December 1858 in a dense scrub twenty-four miles from Portland Bay, uttering a note like that of the English thrush, running over logs on the ground. I have not since seen another specimen.

Melbourne, Dec. 26, 1866.

XXXII.—On the Identity of *Alepisaurus* (Lowe) with *Plagyodus* (Steller). By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER.

WHILST engaged in the study of the Salmonoids described by Pallas, I met with the description of a fish discovered by Steller at the Kurile Islands, and named by him *Plagyodus* (Zoogr. Ross.-As. iii. pp. 383, 384). An examination of the notes left
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